

# Word Wall Activities

by

Janet Ghio

Working as a pair/share partnership, students can participate in Word Wall activities. This might be a quick 5-minute start of class activity. Once students complete the task, they can high five their partner and either partner can be called upon to share answers. Call on others who also have completed the task since in most cases there is more than one correct answer. You can award points for completion of the task and for sharing with the whole group.

1. Find 4 words that relate to one another and explain their relationship.
2. Create categories using all the words and be prepared to explain your categories.
3. Find a word you did not know until studying this unit. Tell your partner the word and the meaning of the word. When your pair is called upon, make sure you can explain both your "new word & meaning" and your partner's "new word & meaning".
4. Find 2 words that have a root. Identify the meanings of the roots.
5. Find a word with a prefix and explain the meaning of the word and the prefix.
6. Find a word with a suffix and explain the meaning of the word and the suffix.
7. Ask a question whose answer is one of the words on the wall. (You can share out by using the REQUEST activity or Question Around.)
8. Write a sentence completion and the word(s) that is (are) missing from the sentence is (are) from the word wall. Example: Using your prior knowledge to make sense of the reading means you are using your \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Act out one of the words with your partner. The class has to guess the meaning of the word.
10. Draw a picture that illustrates the meaning of a word. (This is a "quick draw".) Show your picture to another partnership and see if they can guess the word. Points are awarded if a group can name the word. This Word Wall activity can also include a carousel activity where partners walk around and note on a post-it the meaning of the word illustrated.
11. Find a smaller word within a larger word and explain how the smaller word helps you understand the meaning of the larger word.
12. Write a root word that appears in one of the words on your word wall. Ask students to list all the words they know that also has this root in the word. Then ask them to figure out the meaning of the root word.